

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Friday, July 9, 2004, the House had a vote on an amendment to H.R. 3578, that would have established a Manufacturing & Technology Administration within the Commerce Department. On House rollcall vote No. 357, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING SANDRA FELDMAN ON
HER RETIREMENT FROM THE
PRESIDENCY OF THE AMERICAN
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the life, career and passion of Sandra Feldman, who history will record as being one of the greatest leaders of public education in the United States. Ms. Feldman is herself a testament of the public education system. She culminated a career in education by being elected to lead the largest teacher's union in the country, the American Federation of Teachers. Today this Congress recognizes Sandra Feldman for her tireless efforts to improve public education for all of our children.

Ms. Feldman, began her life in Brooklyn, New York as a student in the New York City public school system. She recognized early that education was a way out of the poverty she grew up in. Ms. Feldman lived in a duplex building with four families—her family consisting of five members alone. She lived in the toughest imaginable situation, but she persevered.

After graduating from James Madison High School she excelled at Brooklyn College and continued with her academic career at New York University. She definitely proved herself to be quite the student, and then challenged herself to meet the challenge of educating and shaping young lives through becoming a teacher. She taught at Public School 34 in Manhattan. In her early days as a young teacher, did she dream that she would one day achieve the presidency of the largest teacher's union in the nation?

As Sandra began her lifelong career as an advocate for disadvantaged youth in education, she participated in the great civil rights movement of the 1960's, by partaking in the freedom rides and being arrested. As a teacher she became active in the union and tirelessly worked for the children of New York. She gained notice because she was clearly the best advocate for disadvantaged students.

In 1966 she became involved as a field representative for the United Federation of Teachers (UFT). She was repeatedly promoted to become the Executive Director of the UFT. As executive director she oversaw all of the union's activities.

She was elected president of the UFT in 1986. She served honorably as president for over a decade until she was elected as presi-

dent of the American Federation of Teachers in 1997.

Sandra Feldman now steps down from that post. She served as the 15th president of the union and the first woman since 1930. Her career as president was marked with innumerable successes. She is regarded as the pre-eminent authority on urban education and disadvantaged youth. Ms. Feldman has served on a plethora of committees and on the board of countless organizations. She has been recognized by magazines as one of the "most influential women," in the country. She is certainly the most influential educator in the Nation.

I regret Sandra's departure from the presidency of the American Federation of Teachers, although she deserves a rest from her endless labors. She has certainly left an indelible mark on public education in this Nation during her superb service to our youth.

In addition to noting her successful career as a teacher, and unprecedented leadership of the American Federation of Teachers union I would like to extend my support and well wishes to this remarkable woman as she battles her illness. I wish her a speedy recovery.

There are no words adequate to express the gratitude I have for Sandra Feldman for her service and my regard for the contributions she has made.

I rise today and call on my colleagues to support House Resolution 714, to recognize Sandra Feldman for her tireless dedication to improving education for our children.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL
CHRISTOPHER M. SHEA

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of a brave young Delaware State Police officer, Corporal Christopher M. Shea. Corporal Shea was a proud and talented state trooper who died early Sunday morning after his patrol car was struck head-on by another vehicle.

A Marine Corps veteran and an extremely dedicated state trooper, Shea was Delaware's 33rd officer to die in the line of duty. At just 31 years of age, Shea had already distinguished himself as an intelligent and courageous public servant, with a true love of police work. As a four-year veteran of the State Police, assigned to patrol out of Troop 7 in Lewes, Shea served our State honorably. The fact that Shea was promoted to Corporal, only days before his death, is evidence of this bright young man's unlimited potential.

In addition to being a tremendous officer, Shea was also a thoughtful son, devoted husband and loving father. Born the second of eight children, Shea grew up in New Jersey where he attended Farleigh Dickinson College. After meeting his wife, Susan, the Sheas eventually moved to Delaware, where they had two wonderful children, Christopher Jr., 3½, and Elizabeth, 11 months.

While remembering their fallen comrade, Shea's fellow officers reflected on the trooper's ability to balance his commitment to police work with his unwavering devotion to family. Described as a talented and compassionate

individual, Corporal Shea was a tremendous asset to our law enforcement community and he will be truly missed by his family, friends, and fellow officers.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere privilege to honor the life of a proud state trooper and heroic representative of the State of Delaware. Corporal Christopher M. Shea was an honorable defender of justice, and he deserves our deepest gratitude and respect.

APPLAUD THE CHENANGO RIVER
WORKCAMP

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the efforts of the Chenango River Workcamp in Greene, NY. The Chenango River Workcamp is comprised of young students from across the Nation. This faith-based group of youngsters has dedicated a good portion of their summer to help the Chenango Housing Council rebuild and rehabilitate 61 homes for senior citizens and low-income families who might otherwise not benefit from these repairs.

This group of 450 young students has selflessly put the needs of others first and I am proud of their commitment to community and those in need. This leadership sets an excellent example to other youngsters and provides a shining ray of hope for our future. On behalf of my constituents in Upstate New York and all of the areas of the Nation these exceptional students are from, thank you.

INTRODUCTION FOR MS. THOMAS'
RESEARCH ANALYSIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw your attention to the recently announced approval by the Federal Government for a California biotechnology firm to license three experimental drugs from Cuba. This decision is especially interesting in the light of the fact that the administration also recently unveiled new measures to further tighten Cuban embargo restrictions. The contradictory actions of this administration, combined with a continued focus on maintaining an embargo that has done nothing to change the status of the Castro regime, reveal a profound lack of interest in truly improving the lives of average Cuban citizens. What is really at stake is President Bush's electoral votes in Florida this November, rather than an ethical and constructive approach to U.S.-Cuba relations. These new embargo restrictions deserve to be reexamined in terms of whether they are necessary to United States-Cuban policy and whether they may, in fact, worsen already unnecessarily tense relations with Cuba, as well as lead to counter productive reactions on the island.

I urge my colleagues to read the following research analysis on the increasingly unproductive United States policy toward Cuba that was recently authored by Lindsay Thomas, a